**Introduction Activity**

**I. Your Aha! Moment**

Most educators agree that we must teach 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity to our students. Yet, most teachers do not regularly integrating these skills into lessons. Fortunately the number of teachers working to change that is growing. These teachers work hard to learn to use new technologies and strategies available to engage students in their work while practicing these important 21st century skills. *When did you realize the importance of integrating 21st century skills into your classroom instruction? Why do you believe learning new techniques and tools will impact your students’ learning and development?* Share your story with your colleagues using a wonderful collaborative tool, etherpad.

**II. What is “EtherPad”?**

Etherpad is a hosted web service that allows really real-time document collaboration for groups of users. Google purchased Etherpad and is not currently running the service, but since the code that runs this type of service is open source, many other sites are available. (Open source refers to any program whose source code is made available for use or modification as users or other developers see fit. Open source software is usually developed as a public collaboration and made freely available.) Since etherpad was the first site using this type of real-time collaboration for groups of users, “etherpad” has become the term used to refer to such collaborations.

## A. “Etherpad” Features:

Online word-processor with formatting options, letter by letter collaboration, color-coded edits, infinite Undo, history Playback, import and export HTML, Word, RTf, and PDF, and change Zoom.

B. Similar Sites to Google’s EtherPad

[http://piratepad.net](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fpiratepad.net%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFj_pmT3meNEYh_Pu1w42Dj_oT2Yw)

[http://primarypad.com](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fprimarypad.com%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGV1l50W9BQm_IeOsRLQtTLtV1E7A)

[http://sketchpad.cc/](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fsketchpad.cc%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFgEPSZPxUsXSi7jS4i9vECNhKslA)

[http://www.edupad.ch/](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.edupad.ch%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFaIjUn4GGoQLBrr4avWJP_vMWAPQ)

[http://ethercodes.com](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fethercodes.com&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNE21NaTzNqZygsgaxg2cL4vhBehCQ)

[http://openetherpad.org](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fopenetherpad.org&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNF1Q3atW9O5KcAkZEHt0FGw-7lhHg)

[http://kompisen.se](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fkompisen.se&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNHMZicKNZz1yRJyNIEP3Xa-PdAKTQ)

[http://piratenpad.de](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fpiratenpad.de&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFJ-JPVpjDH14md3u0bj0lvTjfzKg)

[http://pad.spline.de](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fpad.spline.de&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFLRzsWK_S3OjhU0XxNXByDxoaTsQ)

[http://typewith.me](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Ftypewith.me&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFfEkUFJ6cdd37nUjvkFjw-aEUB_A)

[http://etherpad.netluchs.de](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fetherpad.netluchs.de&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFcCkAE8Ha3PysXHwcJcdqa_RezuA)

[http://meetingwords.com](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fmeetingwords.com&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNHCQyVC-0gvIZoz56MHfSuydHq2JA)

[http://netpad.com.br](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fnetpad.com.br&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNHU2n1rVVPplHbC70esnj6VsW5BVg)

[http://TitanPad.com](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Ftitanpad.com%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNH42njM1VQ7sJ0GLsVU3oc4jyAmlA)

**III. Share Your Aha! Moment on Pirate Pad**

Go to the URL provided by the instructor. Then, follow the instructions on the Pirate Pad tutorial. Skip to Step 3 after opening the pad. Answer the following questions: *When did you realize the importance of integrating 21st century skills into your classroom instruction? Why do you believe learning new techniques and tools will impact your students’ learning and development?*